

By Andy Birkey, *Minnesota Independent*

Rep. Betty McCollum introduced a bill on Wednesday that would direct the federal government to study the nonprofit sector. H.R. 5533 would create the United States Council on Nonprofit Organizations and Community Solutions. In Minnesota, one out of every nine employees works for a nonprofit, for a total of around 290,000 jobs, according to the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits.

"As powerful and productive as nonprofit organizations are, their needs are not being addressed by Congress or the Administration. That must change," McCollum said in a statement. "This legislation is the beginning of a new, positive conversation about the nonprofit sector in Washington and across the country. If Congress can work with leaders in the nonprofit and foundation communities we can build a stronger nonprofit sector, craft smarter federal policy, and create more vibrant communities in every state."

McCollum notes that 5 percent of Gross Domestic Product is generated by nonprofits and 10 percent of the nation's workforce is employed by nonprofits, comparable to the manufacturing sector, yet the federal government does not monitor or evaluate the nonprofit sector.